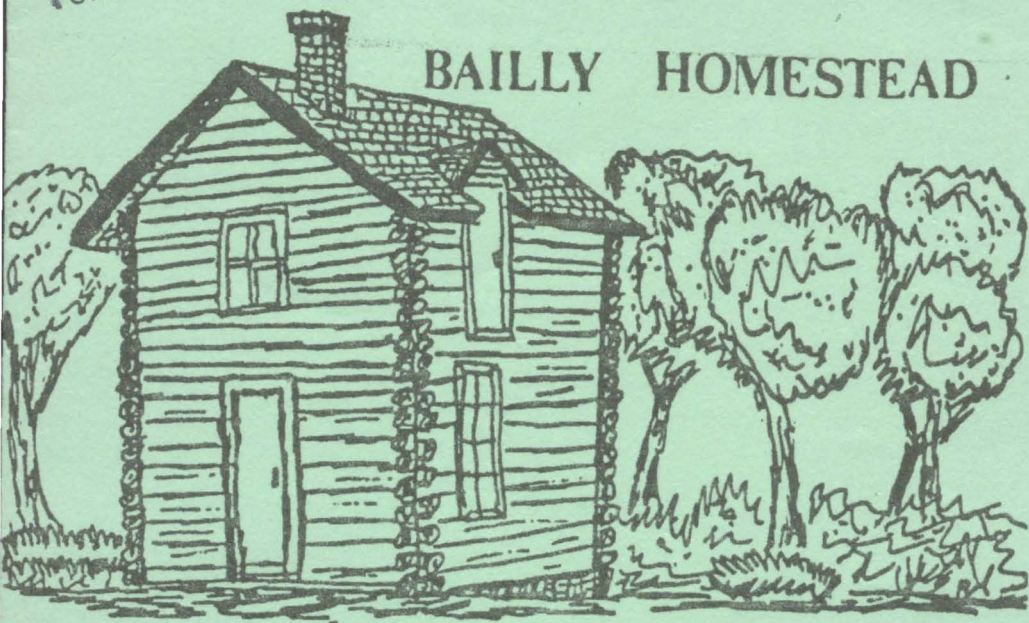


BAILLY HOMESTEAD



The beginning of the westward movement into the wilderness of Northern Indiana was achieved by rugged individuals who sought likely places where they could tap the then untouched natural resources. Joseph Bailly was one of those pioneers who came and settled, paving the way for others. Thus began another sequel in the conquest of the Old Northwest. The Bailly Homestead is a remnant of this, our historical heritage.

As you view the Bailly Homestead, try to picture this area 150 years ago. Imagine the Potawatomis deftly treading through the forest, seeking the homestead to trade their furs for knives, blankets and other items so difficult to obtain. Into a small clearing they arrive and meet the trader Joseph Bailly. They encamp just north of the homestead, possibly to rest, to resupply their provisions or to socialize.

A small log storehouse, similar to the one across from the main house, is provided by the trader for the Indians to store their belongings, a consideration which surely lessened their burden while hunting. The Indians trust the trader because he is honest and fair in dealing with them. His wife, Marie, part Ottawa, certainly, aids in his relations with the Potawatomis.

What drove these people to become fur traders and settle these untamed areas? What were the rewards for the certain hardships they would endure? For the independent fur trader it was probably not the financial return. Imagine the amount of trapping needed to succeed when the going rate for deerskins was 30¢, racoon, 65¢ and for wolfskins, \$1.

For Bailly, much of his success was manifested through his family. Accounts record the pride he felt for his five daughters and his efforts to provide for their education. His concern for his family probably prompted him to go beyond the pioneer log cabin and provide comfort as well as the shelter necessary for survival.

Thus, he began construction of the main house, not as it looks today, but a two and one-half story hewn oak home, a mansion in its time. He had a vision for the future--a town with his own name. Most of the streets in the "Town of Bailly" were named after his daughters and wife. But the dream was never realized. Joseph Bailly, the trader, husband, father, visionary, died in 1835.

Marie continued to live here with her daughter Rose and son-in-law Francis Howe. As the railroads began to push through the area, the homestead, no longer used for fur trading, became a place to obtain wood for the construction of track and housing for the railroad workers.

The coming of the railroads marked an end to the wilderness and the pioneer way of life since they provided the means for extensive settlement. In 1866, Marie Bailly, the wife, mother, interpreter, died.

The fur traders gone, the railroads constructed, the homestead then became a part-time residence for Rose Howe and her two daughters Rose and Frances. While on a European trip, a log kitchen, adjacent to the main house, was changed to a chapel in memory of

the pioneers, Joseph and Marie. A portion of the homestead became a farm in the 1880's and continued as that for 90 years. Frances Howe, the granddaughter, the last living Bailly resident, died in 1917. No longer a Bailly residence, the homestead passed through various owners until it became a part of the National Lakeshore in 1971.

Walk the grounds at your leisure; enjoy the peace and solitude. Imagine the fur trader arriving, building, dreaming--and imagine the changes that have taken place.

SUGGESTED READING

Altrocchi, Julia C., Wolves Against the Moon (Black Letter Press, Grand Rapids, Michigan), 1969.

Bowers, John O., The Old Bailly Homestead (Gary, Indiana), 1922.

Howe, Frances Rose, The Story of a French Homestead in the Old Northwest (Columbus, Ohio: Nitschke Brothers), 1907.

Schiemann, Olga Mae, From a Bailly Point of View (Chicago, Illinois), 1952. Issued as a Duneland Historical Society Publication, August, 1955.

NOTE: The main house is not open to the public. Interior restoration is contingent upon future study. Restoration of the cemetery is expected to begin in late 1978 and be completed in 1979.

"The Bailly Homestead" is one of a series of pamphlets about the natural and social history of the Indiana Dunes region prepared by the interpretive staff of Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Copies of this free publication can be obtained from Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, R.R. 2, Box 139A, Chesterton, IN 46304. Phone: 219 926-7561.

US 12

VISITOR CENTER

BAILLY
CEMETERY



OAK HILL RD

HOWE RD

CHELLBERG
FARM

MINERAL SPRINGS RD



BAILLY
HOMESTEAD

AYH

LITTLE
CALUMET R